

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

■ KING COVE ■ SAND POINT ■ AKUTAN ■ COLD BAY ■ FALSE PASS ■ NELSON LAGOON

Rick Poetter, Refuge Manager
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 127
Cold Bay, AK 99571

February 14, 2001

Dear Rick,

The Aleutians East Borough would like to comment on the 22(g) Compatibility Determination for the proposed construction of a small boat harbor in False Pass. We understand that a compatibility determination is required because the project involves Isanotski Corporation lands with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Section 22(g) restrictions.

As the project's local sponsor, the Borough has worked on this project through the feasibility study phase and we will very soon have an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for the Design and Engineering phase. We are cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide protection for the water and wildlife in the area during harbor construction and through future years of operation.


We believe that the future of False Pass is dependent upon the construction of a harbor, which will provide safe moorage for local boats and others in often treacherous waters. A harbor allows local fishermen the ability to safely fish during the winter and thereby adds to severely limited commercial and subsistence fishing opportunities. Without a harbor, we fear the population of False Pass will continue to decrease and eventually the village will cease to exist, as has happened to other Aleutian communities.

We do not believe that the construction of our harbor or development within the uplands area will have any negative impact upon the neighboring refuge lands in False Pass. We see no interference with refuge purposes as noted in the Public Notice. If anything, we anticipate an increase in scientific marine research related to our responsibilities within the mandated Reasonable and Prudent Measures to Protect Steller's Eiders.

We also foresee a significant increase in local subsistence. At present fishermen cannot keep their boats in the water during the winter because winter storms threaten human safety and boat damage. However with a harbor, fishermen can keep their boats in the water even in the winter and can take advantage of subsistence opportunities year round.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

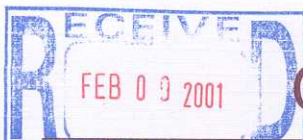
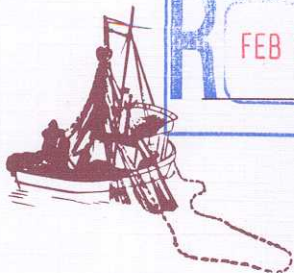

Robert S. Juettner
Borough Administrator

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City of False Pass

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February 7, 2001

Rick Poetter, Refuge Manager
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 127
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Dear Rick,

Thanks for talking with me a few days ago about the 22(g) Compatibility Determination for the proposed construction of a small boat harbor in False Pass. I understand that a compatibility determination is required because the project involves Isanotski Corporation lands with Section 22(g) (of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) restrictions. Although we have had a conversation about the project, I felt it was important to contribute to the public record with this letter.

The City of False Pass has given the harbor project its number one priority for economic development. We believe that the future of False Pass is dependent upon the construction of a harbor, which will provide safe moorage for our boats and others in sometimes very dangerous waters. A harbor allows local fishermen the ability to safely fish during the winter and thereby adds to severely limited commercial and subsistence fishing opportunities. Without a harbor, we fear the population of False Pass will continue to decrease and eventually our village will cease to exist, as has happened to other Aleutian communities.

We do not believe that the construction of our harbor or future construction of a parking lot and harborhouse will have any negative impact upon the neighboring refuge lands in False Pass. We see no interference with refuge purposes of conserving fish and wildlife, fulfilling international treaty obligations, providing for continued subsistence uses, providing scientific marine research or ensuring water quality and quantity. If anything, we anticipate an increase in subsistence fishing opportunities and an increase in scientific marine research (related to responsibilities we have within the mandated Reasonable and Prudent Measures to Protect Steller's Eiders).

Thanks again for your time in talking with me and also for adding the City of False Pass' comments to the record on the 22(g) Compatibility Determination for our harbor project.

Sincerely,

John Nickels, II
Mayor